

**Testimony of the Board of Naturopathic Medicine**

**Before the  
Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection  
Monday, March 25, 2024  
9:00 a.m.  
Conference Room 229 and Videoconference**

**On the following measure:  
G.M. 656, SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION  
TO THE BOARD OF NATUROPATHIC MEDICINE,  
GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, KRISTEN COLES,  
FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE 06-30-2026**

Chair Keohokalole and Members of the Committee:

My name is Christopher Fernandez, and I am the Executive Officer of the Board of Psychology (Board). The Board supports the confirmation of Dr. Kristen Coles' reappointment to the Board as a licensee member.

Dr. Coles was appointed to the Board on an interim basis on April 27, 2018. She has held a naturopathic physician license in Hawaii since October 2012. Her license is current, valid, and in good standing.

Dr. Coles has continuously practiced at Steelsmith Natural Health Center in Honolulu since 2012, and is the Medical Manager of their IV Nutritional Clinic. Dr. Coles continues to engage with local communities and beyond as a public speaker, writer, and educator. She lectures across Oahu to various groups, including hospitals and the University of Hawaii Nancy Atmospera-Welch School of Nursing.

Dr. Coles is very familiar with the Board's responsibilities and duties involved in granting, suspending, and revoking licenses, establishing administrative rules, and enforcing provisions of naturopathic medicine regulations. She understands the expectation that individual Board members regularly attend and participate in the Board's functions. Importantly, Dr. Coles continues to express a strong interest in participating in policy and consumer protection issues. The Department believes that Dr. Coles' combination of experience, enthusiasm, and commitment to public service continue to make her a strong choice for reappointment to the Board.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.